

RAILWAY LANDS.

The completion of the Winnipeg and Hudson Bay Railway will render available for immediate settlement nearly seven million acres of fertile land on, perhaps, more advantageous conditions than free homesteads from the Government. Proximity to a railway is an unquestionable advantage in any agricultural country; it is considered peculiarly so on the prairie, where farming operations are conducted on a more than usually large scale, and with the most vigilant regard for economy of time. The intelligent and enterprising settler in a prairie country will prefer to pay 8s. or 10s. an acre for a farm within convenient reach of a railway than to accept one as a gift from the Government situated a day's drive away. These lands will therefore come into active demand as soon as they are thrown open to settlement.

One hundred miles of the railway will be completed and in operation before the close of the current year, from Winnipeg nearly to Fairford, on the little Saskatchewan, and running through the most desirable tract of land in the Northwest for mixed farming. Thriving settlements extend all along the route. The lands given in aid of the railway are, by Order-in-Council, apportioned in alternate townships of 36 sections, instead of alternate sections only—a concession made to no other railway in Canada. This will facilitate settlement, as the privilege of selecting adjoining lots will encourage colonizing companies who desire to group themselves in compact communities.

GREATNESS OF THE NORTHWEST.

From the Report of a Select Committee of the Senate of Canada, on the Natural Food Products of the Northwest Territories, Session 1887:—

“Your Committee cannot conclude this Report without expressing to this Honorable House their sense of the great value of these Northwest Territories to the Dominion of Canada, and from the evidence taken, which incidentally extends beyond the scope of your instructions, they are forced to the conclusion that nowhere has Nature showered blessings with a more bountiful hand than in the Canadian Northwest. About 600,000 square miles of arable and pastoral land seem prepared by the hand of God for the homes of civilized men. No rock or stump prevents the immediate cultivation of the soil, while beneath the surface are vast stores of fuel from former forests, side by side with extensive deposits of iron